

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A policy management tool, comprising:
2 dynamic network information; and
3 a policy manager coupled to the model to manage deployment of at least
4 one policy to a set of devices in a network based on the dynamic network information.

- 1 2. The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to restrict
2 certain types of traffic at multiple points within the network via a topology-based
3 analysis of the network.

- 1 3. The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to queue,
2 buffer, or prioritize certain types of traffic at multiple points within the network based
3 on an analysis of traffic found on various portions of the network.

- 1 4. The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to prioritize
2 traffic, wherein the policy automatically selects the prioritization mechanism based on
3 the protocol and/or media the traffic traverses.

- 1 5. The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to monitor
2 response time of content transfer between one or more primary servers and a device in
3 the network and replicate content of the primary servers to at least one other server
4 when the content response time of a primary server exceeds a predetermined metric.

1 6 The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to monitor
2 the performance of one or more primary servers and replicate content of the primary
3 servers to at least one other server when the performance metrics of a primary server
4 exceed a predetermined value.

1 7. The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to monitor
2 the health of one or more primary servers in the network, to replicate content of the
3 primary servers to at least one other server when a primary server experiences a fault,
4 and to configure the other server to emulate the primary server.

1 8. The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager creates access control lists to
2 control traffic through edge devices in the network based on a topology analysis of the
3 network.

1 9. The tool of claim 1 wherein the dynamic network information comprises a
2 network topology, network statistical information, or network traffic information.

1 10. The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to replicate
2 content of a first device to a second device when the content response time of the first
3 device exceeds a predetermined metric.

1 11 The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to
2 selectively configure a set of devices based on an analysis of the traffic processed by
3 the set of devices.

1 12. The tool of claim 1 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to replicate
2 content of a first device to a second device when the first device experiences a fault
3 and to configure the second device to emulate the first device.

1 13. A method, comprising:
2 applying dynamic network information to a policy manager; and
3 mapping a policy to a set of devices in the network based on the
4 dynamic network information.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to
2 restrict certain types of traffic at multiple points within the network via a topology-
3 based analysis of the network.

1 15. The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to
2 queue traffic in devices in the network based on priority.

1 16. The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to
2 buffer traffic in devices in the network based on priority.

1 17. The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to
2 prioritize traffic in the network based on type of traffic.

1 18. The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to
2 monitor response time of content transfer between one or more primary servers and a
3 device in the network and replicate content of the primary servers to at least one other
4 server when the content response time of a primary server exceeds a predetermined
5 metric.

1 19. The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to
2 monitor the performance of one or more primary servers and replicate content of the
3 primary servers to at least one other server when the performance metrics of a primary
4 server exceed a predetermined value or to monitor the performance of one or more
5 primary servers and replicate content of the primary servers to at least one other server
6 when the performance metrics of a primary server exceed a predetermined value.

1 20. The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises an access
2 control list to control traffic through edge devices in the network.

1 21. The method of claim 13 wherein the dynamic network information comprises a
2 network topology, network statistical information, or network traffic information.

1 22. The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to
2 replicate content of a first device to a second device when the content response time of
3 the first device exceeds a predetermined metric.

1 23 The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to
2 selectively configure a set of devices based on traffic types to the set of devices.

1 24. The method of claim 13 wherein the policy manager comprises a policy to
2 replicate content of a first device to a second device when the first device experiences
3 a fault and to configure the second device to emulate the first device.

1 25. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions for causing a
3 processor to:
4 apply dynamic network information to a policy manager; and
5 map a policy to a set of devices in the network based on the topology of
6 the network.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the instructions are further to cause the
2 processor to apply a policy to restrict certain types of traffic at multiple points within
3 the network via a topology-based analysis of the network.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the instructions are further to cause the
2 processor to apply a policy to queue traffic in devices in the network based on priority.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the instructions are further to cause the
2 processor to apply a policy to tag or prioritize traffic in the network based on type of
3 traffic.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the instructions are further to cause the
2 processor to apply a policy to response time of content transfer between one or more
3 primary servers and a device in the network and replicate content of the primary
4 servers to at least one other server when the content response time of a primary server
5 exceeds a predetermined metric.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the policy manager further comprises a
2 policy to monitor the performance of one or more primary servers and replicate
3 content of the primary servers to at least one other server when the performance
4 metrics of a primary server exceed a predetermined value or to monitor the
5 performance of one or more primary servers and replicate content of the primary
6 servers to at least one other server when the performance metrics of a primary server
7 exceed a predetermined value.